

Household Analysis Review Group (HARG)

Minutes of HARG meeting:

29 November 2016, 13:30pm – 15:30pm, Rm 1/G/8, Ladywell House, Edinburgh

Present:

Esther Roughsedge (Chair)	National Records of Scotland (NRS): Household Estimates and Projections (HEP)
Alistair Harvey	Edinburgh Council
Angela Adams	Glasgow and the Clyde Valley Strategic Development Planning Authority
Charles Brown	Scottish Government, Centre for Housing Market Analysis (CHMA)
Chris Carr	Argyll & Bute Council (via teleconference)
Duncan Gray	Shelter
Jan Freeke	Glasgow Council
Steve Morley	North Ayrshire Council
Kirsty MacLachlan	NRS: Demographic Statistics
William Howes	NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
Denise Patrick	NRS: Population and Migration Statistics
Celia MacIntyre	NRS: Scotland's Census 2021 – User Needs, Content and Benefits
Hannah Rutherford	NRS: Household Estimates and Projections
Amelia Brereton (minutes)	NRS: Household Estimates and Projections

1. Welcome and Introductions

1.1 Esther welcomed everyone and introductions were made

2. Actions from this meeting

Action 1: HEP to proceed to publish the 2014-based projections as planned.

Action 2: HEP to proceed to publish only the national and local authority level projections in January

Action 3: HEP to remove tables from the pdf version of the publication, and send out the excel tables for pre-release access instead.

Action 4: HEP to publish the household projections on statistics.gov.scot in full detail

Action 5: Charles and Angela to provide Celia with information about the range of affordable housing products

3. Minutes of previous meeting, held 11 June 2014

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. All actions from previous meetings are now closed.

4. Impact of population projections revisions on household projections (2012-based)

- 4.1 Esther presented a comparison of the 2012-based household projections based on the original 2012-based populations projections, versus the 2012-based population projects using the new methodology (as outlined in paper 1 HARG 2016 (1)).
- 4.2 Jan thanked HEP for the comparison, and noted that the 2012-based household projections re-run using the new population projections will also be useful for comparison with the 2014-based household projections when they are published. Esther noted that HEP did not intend to publish the re-run 2012 projections (other than by publishing the HARG paper), and Jan agreed that this was ok.
- 4.3 Jan noted that at the conurbation scale, changing the population projections appeared to have little effect on the 2012-based household projections. The group discussed re-running the 2012-based Strategic Development Plan (SDP) Area projections to look at this further, but decided that this was not necessary.

5. Provisional results of the 2014-based Household Projections

- 5.1 Esther presented an overview of the 2014-based projections (as outlined in paper 2 HARG 2016(2)).
- 5.2 Alistair asked how HEP deal with private communal student accommodation (for example Unite student accommodation). He pointed out that in City of Edinburgh there have been thousands of bed spaces of this type of accommodation built in recent years, and thousands more with consent to be built. The group discussed to what extent these communal halls could affect the household projections. HEP remove residents of communal establishments from the population projections before producing the household projections (although the communal establishment rates are kept constant over time). Therefore, their presence could affect the projections in some areas. Alistair noted that the council know where all the private communal halls have been built, and how many bed spaces they have. Hannah suggested that this could be useful for quality assurance purposes.
- 5.3 Jan asked whether information on how communal establishments have been incorporated into the projections will be included in the publication, and whether the projections still show a slowing in household growth. Esther confirmed this.
- 5.4 Charles noted he was glad that the 2014-based household projections publication will include high and low migration variants, as these are used for projecting housing need assessments.
- 5.5 Jan commented that people may start to ask about the impact of Brexit on household numbers. Esther described the variants used in the latest population projections (for example zero, 50 per cent, 150 per cent EU migration at Scotland level), however HEP are not planning to replicate these for the household projections. Jan agreed that looking at the population projections is sufficient for estimating what will happen to household numbers in different scenarios.
- 5.6 Duncan asked whether HEP will publish the weighting used with headship rates, and the effect of the weighting on the household projections. Esther said that they would publish this.

- 5.7 Angela asked how the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is changing and what effect this will have on the household projections. Esther said the SHS is trying to make savings, and had consulted on options such as decreasing sample size or frequency of surveys. HEP's preference would be to keep sample size up. The changes to the SHS have not been concluded yet. If SHS sample size is reduced then it might be possible for HEP to use the Labour Force Survey instead.
- 5.8 Esther noted that this year for the first time there were no minimum adult and child adjustments made to the household projections. Duncan said this might be due to better population projections. Jan said this might be due to a reduction in household growth rate.
- 5.9 Jan asked if any further changes were going to be made to the 2014-based household projections results presented today before publication. Hannah said there would be slight changes to some communal establishment data following quality assurance.

Action 1: HEP to proceed to publish the 2014-based projections as planned.

6. Strategic Development Plan (SDP) area and National Park projections and publication format

- 6.1 Esther noted that the SDP area and National park projections were no longer going to be published at the same time as the national and council area projections in January (as outlined in paper 3 HARG 2016(3)). Charles asked when they would be published, as for the Housing Need and Demand Assessment (HNDA) tool, the end of March or early April would be best. Esther said this would be noted but was thinking of publishing in May. Angela noted that none of the SDP areas are at a stage in the planning cycle where they need the projections, so a delay shouldn't matter.

Action 2: HEP to proceed to publish only the national and local authority level projections in January

- 6.2 Esther asked for comments on the household projections publication format, as outlined in paper 3 HARG 2016(3). The group discussed the pros and cons of reducing the detail on the sub-national data and increasing the commentary on the national scale data. For example, Duncan suggested that reducing the publication length and focusing on the main results and causes of change at national scale would make the publication useful for senior staff. Jan and Steve agreed that the publication length could be reduced, although Steve noted that the local authority analysis can be useful, and we should not lose detail about different trends in the east versus west of the country, for example. Steve and Jan also agreed that the tables at the end of the publication pdf are not needed.

Action 3: HEP to remove tables from the pdf version of the publication, and send out the excel tables for pre-release access instead.

- 6.3 Duncan asked whether we would do an infographic for the household projections as senior people could be pointed to it. Esther said that we might do this, possibly after the publication date.
- 6.4 Esther asked whether the projections could be uploaded to statistics.gov.scot in full detail (for example with the breakdown by all age groups). The group agreed.

Action 4: HEP to publish the household projections on statistics.gov.scot in full detail

- 6.5 Esther asked for feedback on the sub-council area projections published earlier this year, and whether we should aim to reproduce these in future. Steve said that the sub-council projections were useful for Community Partnership Planning, and are useful for highlighting different trends within North Ayrshire. Jan noted that Glasgow do their own projections by wards, and these are used for example by the Wheatley group. Hence it would be worth NRS providing projections again in future to save the council from doing this. However Alistair said that within urban authorities, trends in households cannot be followed for long at the small scale. This could lead to the projections being misused, for example to direct services to areas that cannot be developed further, hence he would not want a lot of resource to be used on these projections.
- 6.6 The group discussed the Transport Scotland forecasts. These are small area household forecasts, which use data provided by local authorities, and incorporate planned development. Kirsty said NRS could enquire about getting these forecasts published, as they use local authority data but don't always feedback results to local authorities. Charles noted he was going to speak to Transport Scotland about these forecasts. Alistair said that a concern with the Transport Scotland method is that it relies on local authorities saying how much development will occur, and figures for one area will affect other areas. These figures could not be used for planning purposes as the forecasts already incorporate planned development. Jan noted that if there were two sets of data in the public domain this might be confusing. Angela suggested we invite Transport Scotland to the next PAMS meeting.

7. Content of housing section in Scotland's Census 2021

- 7.1 Celia summarised the Census questions on housing, and possible ways these might be developed for 2021, as outlined in paper 4 HARG 2016 (4).
- 7.2 Celia asked if there were any problems with the census tenure categories for Scotland. The group discussed how this question may be difficult to answer due to the wide range of affordable housing products available in Scotland, which vary by council (for example shared equity, shared ownership, in the private and social rented sectors). Charles and Angela said they could provide Celia with information on these products. Duncan noted that we would need to review the instructions included with this question after they are changed by Office for National Statistics (ONS).

Action 5: Charles and Angela to provide Celia with information about the range of affordable housing products

- 7.3 Celia asked whether there were any thoughts on number of rooms question. Alistair said it would be more useful to have bedrooms than number of rooms, particularly due to trends for open plan living. Charles said house size is usually thought of in terms of number of bedrooms anyway. Angela noted that bedrooms would need to be described properly.

8. Any other business

- 8.1 No other business was discussed, and HARG members were thanked for their contributions.